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COUNTRY Free Territory of Trieste

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SUBJECT Elections and the Economic Situation in the Free Territory of Trieste

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The Elections

1. Despite the fact that the elections in the Free Territory of Trieste will occur in two months no electoral campaign seems to be evident. To date efforts have been concentrated on internal party affairs and possible alignments.
2. All the Italian parties, with the exception of the Communists and Socialists, have created an electoral bloc. The slogans of this bloc: "defense of the country", "the Italianity of Trieste" and "Christian civilization", aspire to demonstrate to the international public through a quasi-plebiscite the fundamental injustice done to Trieste by the Peace Treaty. The strongest and principal party of the bloc, the Demo-Christians, has declared that the elections will constitute proof that the Italians of Trieste desire to be united with Italy. In spite of this so-called plebiscite character of the elections, the Socialists will present themselves independently. It may well happen that other Italian parties will follow suit.
3. The Italian national parties will present themselves in the elections with the following two electoral lists:
 - a. Italian Bloc: In this bloc are the Demo-Christians, the Liberal Italian Party, the Social Italian Movement, the Qualunquisti, the Republican Party and the Monarchy Party. There are still disputes as to the strength each party will have within the bloc.
 - b. The Venezia Giulia Socialist Party (PSVG): The decision of the PSVG not to enter into the electoral bloc has caused great surprise and concern among the Italian nationalist parties. The Giunta d'Intesa has tried to exert pressure on the PSVG, but has not met with success thus far. In view of the failure of these peaceful attempts to induce them to change their stand, a group of old Socialists, headed by Dr. Antonio Nais, is preparing to form a new Socialist Party in order to revoke the decision of the PSVG.
4. The principal reasons why the PSVG refuses to enter into the bloc are:
 - a. It will have nothing to do with Fascist and Neo-Fascist parties in the bloc; and

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- b. It feels that it would have greater strength outside the bloc than it would gain within it.
5. To attacks by other parties that "it has betrayed the plebiscite of 'Italianity'", the PSVG answers that there can be no discussion of a plebiscite in these elections because the Italians of Zone "B" are not participating. Thus the PSVG will have the support of the CLN. Finally, the Italian electoral bloc is faced with another danger, should the projected Triestine Liberal Democratic Party, under Dr. Mario Stocca, with its campaign for an independent Free Territory of Trieste, come into being.

The Economic Situation

6. The serious economic situation of Trieste is attacked from all sides. Even the Slovene Democratic Union has repeatedly brought this to the attention of the authorities. It is said that the reason for the grave economic situation, the continued unemployment and the unfavorable treatment of labor, is that AMG, to date, has done nothing to substitute the principles of liberty in economy for the old Fascist economic laws. It is constantly said that AMG favors the Italians in its election policy, and this fact works to the detriment of the Territory. Thus all parties, with the exception of the Italian Nationalists, attack AMG for the grave economic situation in Trieste. Among themselves the Italians, too, speak deprecatingly of AMG. As a consequence very little acclaim of the ECA is heard.

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